

What is claimed is:

1. An image forming apparatus comprising:

plural image carriers that carry toner images formed by an image forming process in operation thereof and are disposed along a sheet transport direction;

a transfer carrier for transporting a sheet recording medium attracting it in the sheet transport direction to transfer said toner images carried on said plural image carriers onto said sheet recording medium;

a transfer voltage applying section for applying a transfer voltage to said sheet recording medium carried on said transfer carrier;

a fixing device for fixing a toner image on said sheet recording medium transported by said transfer carrier and is installed so as to be capable of moving toward outside of a side surface of the body of said image forming apparatus; and

a jam processing control section for detecting occurrence of a jam on said sheet recording medium during said image forming process to process said sheet recording medium in said jam, wherein

said jam processing control section, when detecting occurrence of said jam, ceases transportation of said sheet recording medium in said jam by said transfer carrier as a first stage to make it possible to remove said sheet recording medium

in said jam, and, if a second sheet recording medium in transit when said jam occurs is detected by said transfer carrier, advances to a second stage and restarts transportation of said second sheet recording medium in transit using said transfer carrier so that a transport distance thereof corresponds to a printing ratio of said image formed on said second sheet recording medium.

2. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said jam processing control section controls such that said transport distance of said second sheet recording medium at said second stage is longer at a lower printing ratio than at higher printing ratio.

3. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said jam processing control section at said second stage transports said sheet recording medium as far as just before a position where the leading edge of said sheet is clenched between roller members of said fixing device.

4. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising

a moving-apart or -close section for moving said transfer carrier apart from second image carriers except a first image carrier located in the most upstream side in a sheet transport direction among said plural image carriers, wherein

said moving-apart or -close section, at said second stage, moves said transfer carrier apart from said second image

carriers.

5. The image forming apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said first image carrier, at the second stage, continues rotation driving thereof and said second image carriers cease rotation driving thereof at the same second stage.

6. The image forming apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said first image carrier carries a toner image in a single color and said second image carriers carry toner images in respective other colors.

7. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising

an image kind identifying section for identifying whether image data inputted to an image forming process section for performing said image forming process is line image data such as characters or photo image data such as a photograph, wherein

said jam processing control section sets such that said transport distance in a case where said image data is identified as line image data by said image kind identifying section is longer than in a case where said image data is identified as photo image data by said image kind identifying section.

8. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising

a printing ratio determining section for determining said printing ratio based on image data inputted to an image forming process section for performing said image forming process,

wherein

said jam processing control section sets such that said transport distance in a case where the printing ratio determining section determines that a printing ratio of said image data is lower than a predetermined ratio is longer than in a case where the printing ratio determining section determines that a printing ratio of said image data is higher than the predetermined ratio.

9. An image forming apparatus comprising:

plural image carriers that carry toner images, thereon, formed by an image forming process in operation thereof and are disposed along a sheet transport direction;

a transfer carrier for transporting a sheet recording medium attracting it in the sheet transport direction to transfer said toner images carried on said plural image carriers onto said sheet recording medium;

a transfer voltage applying section for applying a transfer voltage to said sheet recording medium carried on said transfer carrier;

a fixing device for fixing a toner image on said sheet recording medium transported by said transfer carrier and is installed so as to be capable of moving toward outside of a side surface of the body of said image forming apparatus; and

a jam processing control section for detecting occurrence of a jam on said sheet recording medium during said image forming process to process said sheet recording medium in said jam,

wherein

said jam processing control section, when detecting occurrence of said jam, ceases transportation of said sheet recording medium in said jam by said transfer carrier after said recording medium is transported by said transfer carrier by a distance corresponding to a printing ratio of said image formed on said sheet recording medium as a first stage to thereby make it possible to remove said sheet recording medium in said jam, and, if a second sheet recording medium in transit when said jam occurs is detected by said transfer carrier, advances to a second stage to transport said second sheet recording medium in transit using said transfer carrier for a predetermined time and to thereafter stop it.

10. The image forming apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said jam processing control section controls such that a transport distance of said recording medium at said first stage is longer in a case where said printing ratio is higher than in a case where said printing ratio is lower.

11. The image forming apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said jam processing control section at said first stage transports said sheet recording medium as far as just before a position where the leading edge of said sheet is clenched between roller members of said fixing device.

12. The image forming apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising

a moving-apart or -close section for moving said transfer carrier apart from second image carriers except a first image carrier located in the most upstream side in a sheet transport direction among said plural image carriers, wherein

said moving-apart or -close section, at said first stage, moves said transfer carrier apart from said second image carriers.

13. The image forming apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said first image carrier, at the first stage, continues rotation driving thereof and said second image carriers cease rotation driving thereof at the same first stage.

14. The image forming apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said first image carrier carries a toner image in a single color and said second image carriers carry toner images in respective other colors.

15. The image forming apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising

an image kind identifying section for identifying whether image data inputted to an image forming process section for performing said image forming process is line image data such as characters or photo image data such as a photograph, wherein

said jam processing control section sets such that said transport distance in a case where said image data is identified as line image data by said image kind identifying section is longer than in a case where said image data is identified as

photo image data by said image kind identifying section.

16. The image forming apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising

a printing ratio determining section for determining said printing ratio based on image data inputted to an image forming process section for performing said image forming process, wherein

said jam processing control section sets such that said transport distance in a case where the printing ratio determining section determines that a printing ratio of said image data is lower than a predetermined ratio is longer than in a case where the printing ratio determining section determines that a printing ratio of said image data is higher than the predetermined ratio.